

The Hawaiian Star, DAILY AND SEMI-WEEKLY.

Published every afternoon (except Sunday) by the Hawaiian Star Newspaper Association, Limited.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES.

Local, per annum \$ 8.00
Foreign, " 12.00
Payable in advance.

FRANK L. HOOGS,.....MANAGER
TUESDAY.....AUGUST 8, 1905

Wrong That Is Hard To Right

It is unfortunate that Treasurer Trent did not make a more careful inquiry into the facts,—or even did not read correctly the warrant he was criticizing,—before sending a letter to the Board of Supervisors raising the cry of scandal in the garbage department. Public office scandals are numerous enough, and the general public gives only half-hearted heed to explanations. The cry of graft once raised is never wholly done away with, and a grave injustice is done to an official against whom it is raised without proper grounds. By an inspection of the very warrant he was criticizing Trent could have seen that there was no possibility whatever of any truth in the suggestion of graft in the attempted calculation of exact number of days' work, or in credit for Sunday work to a man who had not worked on Sunday. The payroll, as pointed out in The Star yesterday, is made out on the federal system, under which the salary is by the month and not by the day, so that a man who was on the payroll up to (say) July 15 is entitled to 15-31 of that month's salary, though of course he did not work on the Fourth of July nor the Sundays intervening. Every business house that pays by the month pays in this way.

A really striking example of how much more strongly the cry of graft is heeded than the facts which explain it away, is afforded by this morning's Advertiser. Directly following a paragraph in which the monthly salary system is explained, follows a paragraph containing the following: "And it might happen that a man would not remember whether he had worked on a Sunday or not. That particular man said, however, most distinctly, that he had not worked on any Sunday, although he had been credited with five."

Of course the man had not worked on any Sunday, and of course it made no difference. Strictly speaking, as an examination of the payroll shows, he had not been credited with any Sundays at all. He had been credited with his proportion of the month. If Governor Carter should lay down his office on August 15, he would be paid 15-31 of the August salary. This would be giving him credit for two Sundays, just as far as these laborers were given credit for Sundays. The point is simple and clear, but as illustrating the truth of what has just been said regarding the futility of explanations, it is interesting to notice that the Advertiser writer who had apparently devoted a lot of time to investigating the matter failed so utterly to comprehend it that at the close of his day he could write the sentences quoted.

There may have been graft in the garbage department. If there was, it is to be hoped that the present investigation will reveal it and that prompt action against the guilty ones will follow. But the manner of "springing" the proposition just as the smoke of the steamer which carried the man concerned faded out of sight from the Diamond Head station, does not commend itself to fairness, and when it is seen that the letter making the charges gives an erroneous description of the payroll itself, the whole incident has an unfortunate appearance.

Rubbish And Vacant Lots

If the anti-mosquito campaign is to be made effective, the Board of Health must pay attention to vacant lots. In almost every section of the city vacant lots are made the dumping ground for the tin cans and household and yard rubbish of all the neighbors. The results are unsightliness, insanitariness, and the creation of more breeding places for mosquitoes every day than Captain Paul Smith can inspect and abolish in a week.

It is pretty hard in a great many instances to determine absolutely who throws this rubbish on the vacant lots. But in a great many cases there can be no moral doubt of it. Where back yards abut on vacant property, the householder to whom the back yard belongs does not avail himself of the services of the garbage department, and there is a constantly renewed rubbish heap in the vacant lot just over the line from the householder's premises, the evidence is pretty conclusive as to whose Japanese servant put the rubbish there. A few vigorous prosecutions by the Board of Health in such cases would very likely have a wholesome effect.

It would be very nice, of course, if the owner of the unoccupied property could be induced to keep the premises clear of such rubbish. And in many instances, no doubt, such owners would be willing to clear off the property in the interest of sanitation, the mosquito campaign, and general appearance, if there were any assurance that the unsightly rubbish would not all come back as fast as it accumulated in the surrounding households. But it can hardly be expected that any owner of property will want to keep on spending money to remove the garbage thrown on his land by the neighbors.

The Board of Health has pretty nearly plenary power in such matters, and some well-judged application of it in cases of this class, would go far toward removing a nuisance, and help on the anti-mosquito campaign amazingly.

Japan And Formosan Sugar

The Yamato Shimbun says that K. Otsuki of Papaikou sails shortly for the Orient in response to a call from the Japanese government, which wishes to avail itself of his services and experience, in the improvement of the cane lands of Formosa, which has been undertaken by the sugar bureau of the Japanese government. Of Mr. Otsuki, the Shimbun says that he came here twenty years ago as a laborer, being one of the first contract laborers ever sent to Hawaii from Japan. At Papaikou he became a steady, hard-working cane farmer, a student of the cane industry, and a leader among his people. His influence, it is said, has always been exerted in the interest of harmony between the plantation and its employees, and on his departure from the plantation he was given the most flattering proofs of the esteem in which he is held.

It is however significant that Japan has undertaken the work of developing the sugar industry of Formosa, and suggestive of the practical character of what it is proposed to do, that it has called into its service a man, who learned what he knows about the subject, in the very practical school of actual work. It points out the reflex influence which Hawaii is having and will have on Japan from whence such a large proportion of its population has come.

The Hawaiian Forester and Agriculturist for July has been issued. It is a very interesting number. Among the principal articles are a paper read by William Alanson Bryan of the Bishop Museum before the Social Science Club on "Paternalism in Agriculture," and another article of interest entitled, "A Plea for Agricultural Education in Hawaii." There is a very keen editorial discussion of Mr. Bryan's paper.

At the seventeenth annual meeting of the Association of Economic Entomologists held in Philadelphia last December a report was adopted limiting the use of the common English names of a great many insects to certain spe-

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If the war with Japan would only keep up for awhile, there is every probability that the Flunks would get some of their rights.

According to Kellett's attorneys a trustee cannot embezzle the trust funds in his hands. This may be so, but then he needn't lie about it, and make oath to the court that he has the money in the bank when he hasn't.

It will doubtless be a great consolation to the heirs of the Barete estate to know that their money was not embezzled—that it was merely diverted.

What is the promotion committee of Zellers Valley doing, letting the news get out that a party of 149 tourists are snowbound there? Don't they know that such statements as that are liable to discourage tourist traffic thither? It is a hundred to one that there won't be a single person from Hawaii go there now for several weeks after the publication of the disheartening news in Honolulu.

King Oscar is to take a vacation. Did the Norwegians make him tired?

As an official document a passport imports absolute verity. United States District Attorney Breckons says that the one just issued to him by Acting Governor Atkinson for use on his trip to the orient, is ideal in this respect.

It will be too bad if the only result of the garbage payroll flurry shall be to discredit one of the most efficient officials Hawaii has ever had and to cut down the pay of men who are already working for a pittance.

The price of raw sugar in the New York market has stood very firm notwithstanding the extreme and violent fluctuations in the London beet market which have prevailed of late and during which several French Sugar houses went to the wall.

Mississippi people seem to think that the negro was not made for a bondman but to be lynched.

POINTED PARAGRAPHS.

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